



Centurion Outpost March 2005, Issue #3

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Mission Statement

The Centurion Outpost is a Christian Music magazine that focuses mostly on bands that like to use their music as a ministry to win souls to God. We basically want bands that have a ministry to get some exposure. We cover bands from genres such as Metal, Death Metal, Power Metal, Black Metal, Thrash Metal, Speed Metal, Grindcore, Metalcore, Hardcore, Punk, Street Punk, Hardcore Punk, and even some occasional Hard Rock. As you can see we really like our metal, so you can expect coverage of mostly metal bands. This does not make us an official metal magazine but we will cover ALOT of metal bands so if you like metal, you've come to the right place. Luckily it's completely FREE. We will try and email everything once a month, so we hope and pray we can get twelve issues out by the end of next year. If you have a friend who wants to subscribe please have them visit www.freewebs.com/centurionoutpost or simply email Dan at criesfrommypast@hotmail.com. You can contact Dan on AIM at Criesfrommypast and MSN at Criesfrommypast@hotmail.com. Thanks for subscribing to Centurion Outpost.

-Dan and Mike

Want your band's CD in the Magazine?

If you want your band to be covered in Centurion Outpost, you can send us your demo or album at 5858 Barberry Drive, Imperial MO, 63052. If you do send us a CD or demo, please include the full lyrics to the songs. We will not review anything that we haven't read the lyrics to. If your lyrics are printed on your bands website then feel free to just email us the link. If you want to be interviewed in the magazine then feel free to email Dan at criesfrommypast@hotmail.com thanks, God Bless.

Staff Bios

Dan Terry: Editor in Chief

I'm a 19-year-old college student currently enrolled at ITT Tech. I love metal, especially underground metal. I started this magazine in January of 2005 and have been working like a dog trying to get it off the ground. I do most of the Album Reviews, Interviews, Articles, and occasionally some artwork.

Dan's Favorite Albums this month

1. *Conspiracy of the Padded Walls: Simplicity*
2. *Symphony In Peril: The Whores Trophy*
3. *Acoustic Torment: My Hope is in You*
4. *Mortification: Post Momentary Affliction*
5. *Crimson Thorn: Dissection*

Michael Yahne: Art Designer

I'm an 18-year-old college student currently enrolled at Jefferson College. I do most of the artwork for Centurion Outpost. I love metal, hardcore, folk, street punk, dark ambience, and rock.

Mike's Favorite albums of the Month

1. *Living Sacrifice: Conceived In Fire*
2. *Mewithoutyou: Catch for us the Foxes*
3. *Immortal Souls: Ice Upon the Night*
4. *Marcy Playground: Shape Shifter*
5. *In Flames: Colony*

Contact

Feel Free to Contact us about anything, we would love to talk to you! We want as many opinions as possible, and if we get enough we can start printing them in the magazine. We will try and read each and every email and reply to them as fast as possible.

Michael: mike17@ix.netcom.com

Dan: criesfrommypast@hotmail.com

If you want to write us a letter instead of email us then you can write us at Centurion Outpost 5858 Barberry Drive Imperial MO, 63052

Crimson Thorn: Unearthed

Released: 1997

Label: Morphine Records

Ah, the album of many covers. There is somewhere close to three covers for this album floating around out there somewhere. I have the black and white Morphine Records cover. Anyway, this album has eleven tracks, plus the old six song Plagued demo. I will not review those tracks though, because they are technically not part of the Unearthed album.

Crimson Thorn is heavy, no really they are extremely heavy. Crimson Thorn plays some very aggressive death metal. The guitars and bass are down tuned and crunchy. Although the production is less than stellar, so I think the album would have been heavier still if the guitars were more up front. They play very interesting riffs, going from slow plodding to fast grinding with little to no warning. There are only two melodic parts on this whole album; the rest is just brutal slaughter. The drumming is excellent, lots of double bass and crazy blastbeats. It's also worth noting that the bass drum actually sounds deep and bassy instead of sounding like annoying clicks. The vocals are appropriate and sound great with the music. These are some of the deepest death growls every made by human vocal chords. In some parts the vocals are so deep that they sound like no human could possibly do them. The liner notes do clearly state "ABSOLUTELY NO EFFECTS WERE USED ON ANY VOCALS."

If you listen to a lot of death metal, the vocals are fairly easy to understand. If you are new to this style, you can read all of the lyrics along with the album. All the lyrics are printed in the album booklet. The lyrics are very bold for Christ. There is nothing compromised in their lyrics, everything is backed up by scripture. Another thing I like about the lyrics is how honest they are. So many bands only talk about happy things in the Christian life. Crimson Thorn actually explains what will happen to you if you don't accept Christ. This is not CT's only album; they have two more albums after this one, Dissection and Purification. So if you like this album, the other two are must haves. The guys are currently working on a fourth album. For more info on this, read my interview with Crimson Thorn later on in this issue.

Reviewed by Dan.

Crimson Moonlight: Veil of Remembrance

Released: 2005

Label: Rival Records

Ok this is the second "Crimson" band in this issue, but I will assure that Crimson Moonlight and Crimson Thorn are two very different entities, although they do raise the bar on brutality. Crimson Moonlight plays blazing black metal with a lot of death metal influences. The pace of the music is ridiculously fast, and it only slows down twice throughout the entire forty-three minute disc. The guitar work is amazing considering how hard it must be to keep up that kind of pace. The riffs are really good, with lots of variation in them. They have a death metal crunch to them, so not only is the music insanely fast, but also really heavy. Its also interesting to note that there are three guitar players on this recording. In addition to being fast, heavy, and brutal, the album is also very melodic. They do not use keyboards or clean singing at all, all of the melody is created by the guitars.

The drumming is simply ridiculous. It absolutely pummels you to death. Gustav Elowson plays some of the fastest blastbeats you will ever hear, period. Crazy double bass and blastbeats are really all there is. Nothing original here except the speed. I also kind of wish the kick drum would have been a bit deeper sounding instead of having that plastic clicking sound. Overall though the musicianship on the disc is spectacular and energetic. The vocals are excellent, high-pitched black metal screams, with a few deep death growls here and there. If you've never heard a black metal shriek before, imagine a hardcore vocalist screaming his lungs out with shards of glass stuck in his throat.

The lyrics are very surreal. They speak of a man's struggles with grief and agony, but how he overcomes them because of Christ's eternal hope dwelling within his heart. The songs are packed full of lyrics. Some of them read like short stories. Reading along while listening to this album is a very rewarding experience. Hopefully it will help many people overcome their personal struggles and show them just how much Jesus can do in their lives. This album is currently for sale at www.blastbeats.com for 15-17 dollars, don't let the price stop you. This release is worth every penny. Reviewed by Dan.

Ultimatum: The Mechanics of Perilous Times

Released: 2000

Label: Gutter

Ultimatum has gotten better and better over their three album career. Symphonic Extremities was good but lacked punch and drive. Puppet of Destruction packed punch but got boring quickly. I do love both of those albums though.

On this third album Ultimatum plays some very catchy thrash/speed metal. Their guitars are very fast and aggressive and they have a very heavy full sound to them. The bass is very good for a thrash band it is audible and not just a mimic of the guitars. The drums lack originality I feel but they get the job done. The drummer doesn't try anything too crazy so it's very repetitive. The vocals on every Ultimatum album are the best part. You will either love them or hate them, personally I love them. For the most part they are very high-pitched yells, but not normal high-pitched stuff. These vocals can only truly be described as frog like. Nearly all the vocals are done in this manner, but there are some deep growls thrown in there from time to time.

Anyway, this is a great thrash/speed release. You can expect guitar solos on every song. There are several songs that are over seven minutes long. Now normally that would sound kind of boring, but Ultimatum keeps it interesting throughout. There are plenty of riff changes and guitar leads. These songs are aggressive and heavy, but they are well balanced with plenty of leads and melodic choruses. The great part is, is that you get about an hour of great music. My personal favorite songs are Crash Course, Shroud of Science, and Mutamitlu. They also play a very good cover of the Vengeance Rising classic Burn.

Something I love about Ultimatum's lyrics is that they are relevant to today's world. They battle issues such as War, Greed, End Times, and even Evolution. I do not find these lyrics to be cheesy at all. They are very well written and thought provoking. You can read full lyrics to the album at www.ultimatum.net. There you can order the album or email the band if you wish. Overall I find this to be one of the best thrash albums of my collection and will probably have to buy a new one cuz mine will soon be worn out. Be sure to read my interview with Ultimatum later on in this issue.

Reviewed by Dan.

Clear Convictions: Warning

Released: 2005

Label: Strikefirst Records

Clear Convictions is a Christian hardcore band from Puerto Rico. I had never even heard the band before, but they suddenly appeared on the Strikefirst roster with a full-length debut called Warning. Clear Convictions plays very generic hardcore. The guitars are down tuned and ploddy heavy. They have fast paced riffs that slow down for heavy, pounding breakdowns. The guitars do have a bit of a metal feel to them as far as speed and riff changing goes. The bass kind of just blends in there with it all, it doesn't really sound as energetic as the rest of the instruments. The drumming is also very typical of the genre, but it's good, lots of double bass and very spastic. The music is very structured and solid. Not very melodic, but not overly brutal. The production is really good, you can hear everything clearly, and it makes good use of my car speakers.

The vocals are really awesome, very deep screams, almost growling. The vocalist could easily be in a death metal band if he growled a little deeper. The only downside to the vocals is that the lyrics are very hard to distinguish. Even when I followed along with the lyric book in my hands, I still got lost. The vocalist sometimes skips, or changes words, or simply slurs a bunch of words together. I'm not sure if this is intentional or if that's just the guy's accent.

The lyrics are very bold for Christ. They are very straightforward with what they believe, so the lyrics are very heartfelt but aren't really deep or metaphorical. I would definitely put them in the Spirit Filled hardcore category. I would love to see this band live sometime to see their energy on stage. If their energy on this album is any indication of their live show, I'm in for a treat. The cover artwork is also noteworthy. It's done by Dave Quiggle who does a lot of artwork for the Facedown and Strikefirst bands. I am definitely a fan of his artwork.

My favorite songs on this album are Words, Crisis Within, and Clear Convictions. Words is my absolute favorite because of the little chime right before the breakdown.

Reviewed by Dan.

Antestor: The Defeat of Satan

Released: 2003

Label: Momentum Scandinavia

This is actually Antestor's first two demos re-released and remastered. They still sound like demos, but really good ones. My favorite way to listen to this doomy masterpiece is in the dark with my headphones on. It makes me use my imagination and imagine the band playing right in front of me. It's wonderful and creepy at the same time.

The music is very different than the modern Antestor. It is slow paced and very doomy. The guitars plod at a slow pace, but they have much variation. I just love how crunchy they sound. The guitar solos are great and very well crafted. It's good to hear guitar riffs that were carefully planned out before recording. The drums aren't too special, but this music is slow so you don't really need anything too spectacular. The Synth is and always will be a part of Antestor's sound. On this disc though, the keys aren't being played nearly as much as on later albums. It's just there for intros and stuff. The intro for the song Defeat of Satan is really surreal.

Vocals are deep growling and sound kind of strained. It's definitely not the high-pitched shrieks of the later albums. The music does speed up in a few places, so there's a few head banging moments here and there. Did I mention that the guitar solos are awesome?

The lyrics are very biblical and thought provoking. It really must have taken some serious guts to release such an openly Christian album in Norway in the early nineties. Twelve years and countless death threats later, they are still around and kicking massive demon behind. Anyways the lyrics are very evangelistic and kind of creepy. Songs like Demonic Seduction are from the demon's point of view. Overall this is a great doomy record, which is a great start to one of Christian metal's most influential bands.

Reviewed by Dan.

March Old School Album Review: Tourniquet: Stop the Bleeding

Released: 1990

Label: Intense Records

Tourniquet busted onto the scene in 1990 with a very interesting debut. Stop the Bleeding is definitely a thrash album through and through. The version I have is a re release with re-mastered sound. So the production value is superb.

The guitar work is aggressive and technical, very in your face with a bit of a crunch to make this a delicious bowl of thrashy charms. Tourniquet's drumming has always been amazing and even on their first record it is still amazing. There is intricate double kick work going on, as well as Ted Kirkpatrick using every piece of his expansive drum kit. His double kick drum sound is my favorite of all metal bands, with a very deep and punching sound to it, it's the way double bass should sound. The vocals are done by a fellow named Guy Ritter, who can hit nearly any note you can name. Mr. Ritter does some extremely high singing, very eighties sounding. Personally though, I prefer the deeper singing to the higher stuff, his deeper singing is very good, with some thrashy yelling going on too.

The lyrics are very deep. Also though you'll figure out pretty quickly in the song Ark of Suffering that Tourniquet is very concerned about animal rights and doesn't believe in the cruelty that we have towards animals. Most people think that this does not matter because God told us that we had domination over the animals. Tourniquet argues though with the line "do you think dominate means to kill just for sport?" They feel that by horribly mistreating animals, we are not respecting God's creation. The lyrics are very sarcastic too, that is why I love them, they have quite a bit of humor to them, and even years after Tourniquet has had different lineups that humor still continues. It's interesting that the band's sound has a lot more to do with the lyrics than the music. This album wasn't exactly groundbreaking when it came out fifteen years ago, but it was an example of a group of people who really knew how to play their style well, and to create songs that people would remember over the years. That is why I consider this album to be a classic.

Reviewed by Dan.

March Interview #1 Ultimatum

Dan: Who are you and what do you do in Ultimatum?

Ultimatum: Scott Waters, vocalist for Ultimatum.

Robert I play guitar and backing vocals.

Dan: How did you come up with the name?

Ultimatum: Robert- My old drummer John Carroll back when we first started the band in 1990 came up with the name Ultimatum. I liked it and it stuck. It's based on the Scripture Joshua 24:15 "Choose you this day whom will you serve."

Dan: What do you feel is or was the goal of Ultimatum as a whole?

Ultimatum: Scott-My goal in anything I do is to glorify Christ. Ultimatum has always been a band that strives to present the good news of Jesus through our music. We are all big metal fans, so it is only natural that we present that message this way.

Dan: Do you feel like the Christian Metal scene in America is lacking in ministry-oriented bands?

Ultimatum: Scott-Seems to be that way. I do wish there were more bands out with a real desire to share their faith. I honestly don't understand why anyone who has the Spirit of God abiding in them would not want to present a clear message of salvation through Jesus. I do understand that different people have different callings. However, it seems bands have swallowed the lie that being labeled a "Christian" band will make you less successful and will make you reach less people. The problem with that is that if the message is weak, how will anyone hear the message even if a band does sell a million copies? There are still a handful of bands out there taking a stand for their faith. Narnia, Mortification, Once Dead, Oil, Tourniquet, etc.

Dan: Do you get a lot of negative responses from people because you are Christians who play metal?

Ultimatum: Scott- Not really. We play the same bars and clubs as the secular bands. Actually, to be quite honest, when it comes to reviews we seem to get better reviews from non-Christian publications than from Christian publications.

Dan: Who are some of your influences?

Ultimatum: Scott-Lyrically I have always been a fan of guys like Steve Rowe, Tom Denlinger and the old Roger Martinez/Vengeance Rising stuff. It was almost like Bible studies set to music. I have always enjoyed that. As far as performing, I am a big metal fan and have many influences.

Dan: Is the band working on any new material as of now?

Ultimatum: Robert-We're working right now in the studio on a 4 song EP. Were going to shop it to various labels and see if we get any bites out of it. It will be available from our website when its done. Also were going to be working on a DVD with live cuts from different shows kinda like a discography of Ultimatum from 1992 till now. It will have various live cuts, interviews and also 1 or 2 concept videos from our new material.

Dan: I really loved Mechanics of Perilous Times, it seems that every Ultimatum album gets heavier and heavier, will your new material follow this trend?

Ultimatum: Robert- Yes I think our new songs are a little heavier in the sense that they are more brutal and chunkier. There are a lot of different elements rolled up in the songs a little Speed metal, Thrash and straightforward Power Metal. Two of them are longer than your normal song time and that makes for some screamin guitar soloing.

Dan: What bands or albums have you been listening to lately?

Ultimatum: Scott- I am an avid CD collector and listen to music all day long, every day. I like a lot of 70's stuff. Bands like Aerosmith, Ted Nugent, Thin Lizzy, Angel, etc. are some of the bands I play almost daily. I also like a lot of the old 80's classic metal stuff and have been listening to bands like Anvil, Raven and Saint. The latest Mortification has been getting a lot of spin time as well.

Robert Yeah I grew up in the 80's and generally get into old school Metal like Maiden, Priest and Dio. But I also like a lot of the new bands that play Real metal like Shadowsfall, Nevermore, Iced Earth, Killswitch and Dream Theatre.

Dan: Will Ultimatum be touring anytime soon?

Ultimatum: Robert- Well A tour requires a lot of money. That is one thing we always had trouble getting a lot of. I don't think we could do that unless we all quit our day jobs and made this our livelihood. But there isn't enough money to help with our mortgages and other bills. We all have families that depend on our day jobs. We do try to play out of town gigs on weekends when they arise though.

Dan: Any advice to any new or existing Ultimatum fans?

Ultimatum: Robert-Yeah remember to drink your Ovaltine...Kidding I guess that would be to stay positive about yourself keep Christ first in your heart and don't let anyone tell you that you cant succeed in life. This is America and we're blessed to live in such a great nation.

Dan: Thanks for taking the time out to talk with Centurion Outpost any closing comments?

Ultimatum: Robert- If you have any questions about Ultimatum and our faith of anything at all drop us a line at ultimatums777@hotmail.com We would love to hear from you. Also check out our website at www.ultimatum.net. Thanks ...

March Interview #2 Crimson Thorn

Dan: Who are you and what do you do in the band?

Crimson Thorn: I'm Luke Renno. I was lead vocalist and bassist, but now I've moved to lead vocals and guitar. Andy Kopesky has left the band for other areas of ministry, so I've filled his role on guitar. We are now looking for a bassist. Kevin Sundberg also left the band for other areas of ministry and we have a new drummer named Steve Reishus. We've also added a keyboardist named Collin Anderson. Miles and I have been with Thorn since the beginning about fourteen years ago. We'll miss Andy and Kevin, but we're very excited out our new guys. They're both awesome guys and have very awesome abilities.

Dan: How does it feel to be one of the heaviest bands in the entire world (lol)?

Crimson Thorn: Well, I am a pretty big guy, so I guess it only feels natural. Miles is pretty burly himself. Andy was a big guy too. Collin and Steve are on the smaller side, but they're going to help us with our speed. Miles and I would like to find the biggest bass player possible. If we could find someone six foot nine inches and four hundred pounds, that would be awesome. Just kidding. Most people though have said that we fit our sound pretty well.

Dan: How do you feel about the current Christian Metal Scene?

Crimson Thorn: I don't keep up on all the bands the way I used to, but personally I love all the bands from Scandinavia and Finland. Especially the newest Antestor is incredible. I know for several years things died down quite bit, but in the last few metal in general seems to be making a strong comeback.

Dan: Do you feel that there is a lack of evangelism in the scene? Why or why not?

Crimson Thorn: That depends on who you're talking about. It seems to me the truest metal bands aren't lacking in ministry, but I don't get to see a lot of show's so it's hard to tell. I have noticed in Christian music altogether though, especially in modern rock and stuff like that, the more commercial it sounds, the more watered down the message is. Certainly not in all cases though. I know I've seen a lot of local Christian punk and modern rock bands who's main message seems to be that they're bummed about some girl that broke up with them and unless you ask them if they're a Christian band, you probably would have no idea just by going to one of their shows. I also don't think

that you should cram the gospel down people's throats or cast your pearls before swine. I do think the message should be clear though.

Dan: Your latest album Purification had a lot of mixed influences, and even had all of the band members contributing to the vocals, can we expect this on any new Crimson Thorn material?

Crimson Thorn: I think there will be a lot of influences still, but with death metal at our core. Our new stuff will be extremely heavy, but with technical thrash influence on guitars, and the melodic intensity of black metal. Steve has a different drumming style than Kevin and we will be able to move into some new areas and have a lot more of the extremely fast double bass. I think our next one will be our most intense. Right now we're getting everyone up to speed as far as playing old songs, but I've got three new ones written so far and I think it's my best writing ever.

Dan: Is there any new material in the works?

Crimson Thorn: We're playing the Sonshine festival in July and after that we're planning on writing and recording a new cd. I also have several Atmospheric/black metal songs I've been writing over the last few years and after we do a new Thorn cd, we're going to record those under a different name called Treading Dawn. I think sometimes when bands have been together as long as we have, things can start to get stale and on the cds you can tell that the band doesn't have the drive that they used to. I think we started to feel some of that, but now we have new blood in the band and Miles and I both have felt a renewed vision and I think our new stuff will blow away our old stuff.

Dan: What band or bands would you say have influenced your sound the most?

Crimson Thorn: In the earliest days it was Stryper, then the Lead and bands like Vengeance, Believer, and the Crucified came along. From there, there would be too many bands for me to name as far as influence.

Dan: Would you say that CT has been well received since its beginnings?

Crimson Thorn: Yes.

Dan: What kind of reactions have you gotten from Christians who are not used to the extreme nature of your music?

Crimson Thorn: We've had parents and older people say that they normally wouldn't consider listening to a band like us, but that there is

something different about us and that they like it. We've had people who think that we can't truly understand the Grace of God and play music that sounds like this. We've gotten all kinds of reactions good and bad from Christians who have never heard anything like us. I would prefer that they understand us and support us, but if they don't, ultimately it's not that important. We have to do what Jesus has led us to do and not worry about what man thinks of us. I have to look at what it's going to affect also. If someone doesn't think that Christians can play music like this, is it going to make them stumble because we do? No. They'll walk around with a chip on their shoulder towards us, but it's not going to lead them from Jesus. So I have to think about the people we're trying to minister to. I have to follow the example of Jesus and not listen to the religious people who say you cannot minister like that! Just as they did to Jesus. If I cut my hair, put on a suit and got into other areas of ministry I'd be out of the will of God. God would say why are you tending to the sheep over here? I have appointed others in this area. You have left the flock and lost sheep that I appointed you to tend to. So the ones to disagree will just have to disagree unless God changes their hearts, but we've also had people excited and on fire who have never heard Christians play our style of music. I remember one guy saying how he's never heard the name of Jesus said with such energy and power before. He said that everyone's always so solemn when they say his name.

Dan: What bands or CD's have you been listening to lately?

Crimson Thorn: Antestor The Forsaken Awesome cd!!! Sympathy Arcane Path, Slechtvalk, Extol, Crimson Moonlight. The Lord of the Rings soundtrack.

Dan: Does the band have any current touring plans?

Crimson Thorn: We are playing the Sonshine festival in Wilmar MN. It's a three day festival. Other bands like Extol, Mortal Treason, Tourniquet, Haste the Day, Disciple, Pillar, and Newsboys are playing. Other than that we don't have any lined up right now.

Dan: Is there any Bible verse or motto the band lives by?

Crimson Thorn: I guess my motto would be to be right in the eyes of God and not man. I just enjoy all of scripture, there are too many for me to name that have a big impact on my life.

Dan: What advice would you give any new Christian death metal bands out there?

Crimson Thorn: Energy. Show intensity in your worship and praise of Jesus Christ. I hear a lot of Christian Death metal band demo tapes that have good riffs and stuff, but there's no intensity. It sounds like

the guys were half asleep when they recorded it. Don't be afraid to experiment and sound like a wall of noise.

Dan: Thanks again Luke for taking your time to talk to us, any closing comments to new or existing Crimson Thorn fans out there?

Crimson Thorn: Keep your eyes on Jesus and know that this whole life, even if you live to be one hundred is only the first step in your existence. Keep focused on what's important and don't let all the little details of living life on Earth get you wrapped up and distracted from it. We are only passing through. This is our temporary home. For those of you who have accepted Jesus into your hearts, just keep on the path and know that you are citizens of Heaven and that is your true home. For those of you who don't know Jesus. I want to encourage you to submit your life to Him and make him your Lord and best friend. He died in our place to pay for our sins and save us from this world and the Hell that awaits after. He's prepared an eternal home for us where we can live in happiness and be His Children. It's up to us to put down our pride and admit that we need Him and to accept the love that he's always felt for us.

Black or Unblack? That is the Question

Enter any Christian metal message board and there will be people debating this issue till Jesus comes back. It's a 50/50 divide. On one side you've got the black metal purists who feel that the term unblack is ridiculous and cheesy, and takes away from the true feel of black metal. On the other side you've got every Horde fan you can find who believes that the term black metal might as well mean "Hi, we worship satan, we'll burn down your church and eat your babies." They feel that there should be a division between "evil" and "holy" music.

I've seen posts that have over a thousand replies on this subject alone. But let us take a look at what the bible says about this mindset. Romans 14:13-15 say(NKJV)

13. Therefore let us not judge on another anymore, but rather resolve this

, not to put a stumbling block or cause to fall in our brother's way.

14. I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself, but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15. Yet if your brother is grieved by your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.

Now I understand that they were talking about food in this case, but if you replace the word food with metal, you might see my point. If you don't feel that calling it black metal is bad or evil, then fine, that is your choice. But if you feel that the term black metal is evil then you should call it unblack to make that division. Also though, we should not argue this day in and day out. If you call it unblack do not force this belief onto your brothers in Christ who does not see the term as unclean, and vice versa. This way we do not insult each other and get angry over a matter that is up to personal conviction. So black or unblack is the question you must ask yourself.

-Dan

A Note About Album Reviews

I have had a lot of people ask me why I do not always review brand new or current releases. I do occasionally review some new music, but I like to review regardless of release date. One reason for this is because I am not rich by any stretch of the imagination, and simply cannot afford every new release that comes out. I also believe that there is so much good material out there that should be unearthed, whether it was released in the 80's, 90's, or yesterday. Also when I started this magazine, it was made with the intent to hand out to people in my area. Most people in my area don't have much access to extreme Christian music, so I could not deny them such masterpieces as *Scrolls of the Megilloth*, *Inhabit*, *Hellig Usvart*, or *Within the Ancient Forrest* could I? Granted eventually I will run out of older stuff, but I am trying to keep a good balance between older and newer material.

Also you should note that I am not an expert reviewer. I am a simple metalhead who wishes to gain a better perspective on the music I love. I have also decided not to use any kind of rating system for my album reviews. The reason I'm not is because I don't want to upset a legion of die hard (insert band name here) fans who think that (insert band name here) is the greatest band ever and that my rating was horribly unfair. So I think it's much safer if I simply describe the album, give my opinion on it, and then be done with it. Also 90% of the time, no matter what I think about a band's album, I will still try to support that band and give them as much exposure as I can.

That being said, I really hope that everyone is finding the magazine to be a little more interesting in each issue. Also, we need feedback, even if it's negative, email us or write us. Tell us if you love it or hate it and tell us why. We hope to grow better with every issue. So I hope you enjoy this one more than the last.

-Dan

Apology for the issue being late.

Mike and myself ran into a few problems this past month and have finally gotten back on track. There were some things that were supposed to be in this issue that we did not include, because we did not get them finished in time. They will be in the next issue. The Poster in this issue is not for any particular band, it is a tribute to Durer. For more info on this poster email Mike about it, he will be sure to talk to you about its meaning.

The April issue will have

1. Reviews for Sacrificium, Facedown fest 2004 DVD, Officer Negative, Ballydowse, Bradley Hathaway, Conspiracy of the Padded Walls, Sorrowstorm, and anything else we can think of.
2. Interviews
3. Articles
4. Opinions
5. and whatever else we think is fun, maybe even a short story.

If you are not a Christian and you want to become one, here are some good facts to know.

1. Adam and Eve were the first humans created by God.

a. They could live with God forever because they were innocent.

b. Satan (the devil, Lucifer...etc) tricked Adam and Eve into breaking God's law.

2. Adam and Eve were condemned to death for their sin and cast out of the Garden of Eden to die.

a. Since they were sinful, their offspring were sinful.

b. We stemmed from Adam and Eve, so we are sinful.

3. God pitied our poor pathetic souls.

a. We were born sinful so we are doomed to die from birth.

b. In order to pay the debt for sinning, a life is required as payment.

4. God came down and walked as a man as Jesus.

a. Jesus was a man but He was also God

b. Jesus was not sinful from birth because He was God and did not stem from Adam and Eve.

5. Jesus died and paid the debt for humanity's sin

a. Jesus was able to pay the debt for humanity because He was not sinful.

b. Since Jesus was God, his death was sufficient payment for all the sins of humanity, past and present.

6. Three days after His death, God raised Jesus from the dead.

a. Jesus rose and explained that He was the judge on whether or not we went to Heaven or Hell when we died.

b. Jesus holds our salvation in His hands because He paid the debt for our sins.

7. Jesus explained that in order to get to Heaven when you die, you have to believe in Him and acknowledge what He did for you.

a. When you accept Him and believe in Him, you will receive His gift of salvation in the form of the Holy Ghost (or Holy Spirit).

b. The Holy Ghost is God's/Jesus' spirit dwelling within you.

c. When you receive the Holy Ghost, you will be able to enter Heaven and live forever with God when you die.

8. Satan is jealous of God's majesty and is dedicated to destroying all that God creates and loves.

a. This means that Satan hates you (because God loves you). So he will do anything to keep you from getting the Holy Ghost.

b. Satan will do this by trying to make you believe ANYTHING but God's truth.

c. Satan will try and steal as many souls as he can from God, before God returns and destroys him.

9. Christ will return to Earth sometime in the future to destroy the world and take with Him all those who have the Holy Ghost, all the rest will be sent to Hell and live in eternal separation from God.

10. If you want to become a Christian and go to Heaven when you die, pray this prayer.

"Jesus, I ask You to forgive me for my sins and set me free from the powers of the Devil. I want You from this moment on to be Lord in my life and I want You to take away the burdens of my heart. Jesus I believe that You are God and that You died and rose from the dead as Your word (the Bible) says. I believe that You once and for all, totally defeated Death and the Devil. I ask that You receive me as Your child and to save me right now. Thank You Jesus. In Christ's name I pray Amen."

For more information, read the Bible (available at any public library or local church) and check into a local Bible Believing Church. God Bless you on your new life.

-Dan

